#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA SOUTHERN DIVISION

IN RE: BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD ANTITRUST LITIGATION (MDL NO. 2406) Master File No. 2:13-CV-20000-RDP

This Document Relates to Provider Track Cases

# PROVIDER PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CLASS SETTLEMENT

The Provider Class Representatives<sup>1</sup> (on behalf of themselves and the Settlement Class) ("Provider Plaintiffs") move this Court for an order preliminarily approving the proposed class settlement of the Provider Plaintiffs' claims against the Settling Defendants, finding that the Settlement Classes are likely to be certified at final approval, appointing Provider Co-Lead Counsel, preliminarily approving the Plan of Distribution, setting a Final Approval Hearing, and making other rulings as set forth in the attached Memorandum of Law and Proposed Order.

In support of this Motion, Provider Plaintiffs submit herewith Memorandum of Law, along with the Settlement Agreement as Exhibit A; Declaration of Provider Co-Lead Counsel Joe R. Whatley, Jr. and Edith M. Kallas as Exhibit B; Declaration of Kenneth R. Feinberg and Camille S. Biros as Exhibit C; Declaration of Samuel Issacharoff as Exhibit D; the Affidavit of Settlement Administrator Edgar C. Gentle as Exhibit E; and proposed orders granting preliminary and final approval of the settlement. This Motion is also supported by Provider Plaintiffs' Motion for Approval of a Plan for Notice and Appointment of Settlement Claims Administrator and Settlement Administrator, Memorandum of Law in support, and attached exhibits.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meaning given them in the attached Settlement Agreement.

For the reasons set forth in these materials, the Provider Plaintiffs' Motion should be granted, and the Court should enter a Preliminary Approval Order in the form proposed.

Respectfully submitted this the 14th day of October, 2024.

/s/ Edith M. Kallas

Edith M. Kallas – *Co-Lead Counsel* WHATLEY KALLAS, LLP

152 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street

41st Floor

New York, NY 10019 Tel: (212) 447-7060 Fax: (800) 922-4851

Email: ekallas@whatleykallas.com

Patrick J. Sheehan

WHATLEY KALLAS, LLP

101 Federal Street

19<sup>th</sup> Floor

Boston, MA 10019 Tel: (617) 573-5118 Fax: (617) 371-2950

Email: psheehan@whatleykallas.com

Barry Alan Ragsdale – Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel and Discovery Liaison Counsel

Dominick Feld Hyde, PC

1130 22<sup>nd</sup> Street South Ridge Park

**Suite 4000** 

Birmingham, AL 35205 Tel: (205) 536-8888 bragsdale@dfhlaw.com

Charles Clinton Hunter HAYES HUNTER PC 4265 San Felipe, Suite 1000

Houston, TX 77027 Tel: (281) 768-4731 Fax: (713) 583-7047

Email: chunter@hayeshunterlaw.com

Dennis Pantazis – *Plaintiffs' Steering* 

/s/ Joe R. Whatley, Jr.

Joe R. Whatley, Jr. – *Co-Lead Counsel* 

W. Tucker Brown

WHATLEY KALLAS, LLP

2001 Park Place North 1000 Park Place Tower Birmingham, AL 35203

Tel: (205) 488-1200 Fax: (800) 922-4851

Email: jwhatley@whatleykallas.com

tbrown@whatleykallas.com

Henry C. Quillen

WHATLEY KALLAS, LLP

159 Middle Street

Suite 2C

Portsmouth, NH 03801 Tel: (603) 294-1591

Fax: (800) 922-4851

Email: hquillen@whatleykallas.com

Deborah J. Winegard

WHATLEY KALLAS, LLP 1068 Virginia Avenue, NE

Atlanta, GA 30306

Tel: (404) 607-8222 Fax: (404) 607-8451

Email: dwinegard@whatleykallas.com

E. Kirk Wood, Jr. - Local Facilitating

Counsel

WOOD LAW FIRM LLC

P. O. Box 382434

Birmingham, AL 35238

Tel: (205) 612-0243

Fax: (205) 705-1223

Email: kirk@woodlawfirmllc.com

Aaron S. Podhurst – *Plaintiffs' Steering* 

#### Committee

Brian Clark – *Discovery Committee*WIGGINS CHILDS PANTAZIS FISHER
GOLDFARB

The Kress Building

301 Nineteenth Street North Birmingham, AL 35203 Tel: (205) 314-0500

Fax: (205) 254-1500

Email: dgp@wigginschilds.com bclark@wigginschilds.com

## Dennis C. Reich – *Chair*, *Damages Committee*

REICH & BINSTOCK, LLP 4265 San Felipe, Suite 1000

Houston, TX 77027 Tel: (713) 622-7271 Fax: (713) 623-8724

Email: dreich@reichandbinstock.com

#### Committee

Peter Prieto – *Chair, Expert Committee* PODHURST ORSECK, P.A.

One S.E. 3rd Avenue

Suite 2300

Miami, FL 33131 Tel: (305) 358-2800 Fax: (305) 358-2382

Email: apodhurst@podhurst.com pprieto@podhurst.com

## U.W. Clemon – *Plaintiffs' Steering Committee*

U. W. Clemon, LLC 5202 Mountain Ridge Parkway Birmingham, AL 35222

Tel: (205) 837-2898

Email: uwclemon1@gmail.com

#### Nicholas B. Roth – *Chair, Discovery Committee*

Julia Smeds Roth – *Discovery Committee*EYSTER KEY TUBB ROTH MIDDLETON
& ADAMS, LLP

402 East Moulton Street, SE

Decatur, AL 35602 Tel: (256) 353-6761 Fax: (256) 353-6767

Email: nbroth@eysterkeylaw.com jroth@eysterkeylaw.com

J. Mark White – *Litigation Committee* Augusta S. Dowd – *Chair, Litigation Committee* 

Linda G. Flippo –  $Discovery\ Committee$  WHITE ARNOLD & DOWD, P.C.

2001 Park Place North

**Suite 1400** 

Birmingham, AL 35203 Tel: (205) 323-1888 Fax: (205) 323-8907

Email: mwhite@whitearnolddowd.com adowd@whitearnolddowd.com lflippo@whitearnolddowd.com

David A. Balto – *Expert Committee* THE LAW OFFICES OF DAVID A. BALTO 1350 I Street, N.W., Suite 850

Washington, DC 20005 Tel: (202) 789-5424 Fax: (202) 589-1819

Email: david.balto@dcantitrustlaw.com

Van Bunch – Chair, Class Certification Committee

BONNETT FAIRBOURN FRIEDMAN & BALINT, P.C.

2325 E. Camelback Road, Suite 300

Phoenix, AZ 85016 Tel: (602) 274-1100 Fax: (602) 274-1199

Email: vbunch@bffb.com

Joey K. James – *Litigation Committee* 

BUNCH & JAMES P. O. Box 878 Florence, AL 35631 Tel: (256) 764-0095 Fax: (256) 767-5705

Email: joey@joeyjameslaw.com

Robert J. Axelrod – Chair, Written

Submissions Committee

**AXELROD LLP** 

800 Third Avenue, Suite 2800

New York, NY 10022 Tel: (646) 448-5263 Fax: (212) 840-8560

Email: raxelrod39@gmail.com

Richard S. Frankowski – *Discovery Committee* 

THE FRANKOWSKI FIRM, LLC 231 22<sup>nd</sup> Street South, Suite 203 Birmingham, AL 35233 Tel: (205) 390-0399 Fax: (205) 390-1001

Email: richard@frankowskifirm.com

W. Daniel Miles, III – Written Submissions

Committee

BEASLEY ALLEN CROW METHVIN

**PORTIS** 

& MILES, P.C. 218 Commerce Street Montgomery, AL 36104 Tel: (800) 898-2034 Fax: (334) 954-7555

Email: dee.miles@beasleyallen.com

John C. Davis – Written Submissions

Committee

LAW OFFICE OF JOHN C. DAVIS

623 Beard Street Tallahassee, FL 32303 Tel: (850) 222-4770

Email: john@johndavislaw.net

Michael C. Dodge – *Expert Committee* GLAST PHILLIPS & MURRAY, P.C.

14801 Quorum Drive, Suite 500

Dallas, TX 75254 Tel: (972) 419-7172

Email: mdodge@gpm-law.com

Mark K. Gray – Discovery Committee

**GRAY & WHITE** 

713 E. Market Street, Suite 200

Louisville, KY 40202 Tel: (502) 805-1800 Fax: (502) 618-4059

Email: mgray@grayandwhitelaw.com

Michael E. Gurley, Jr. – *Discovery Committee* 

Attorney at Law

24108 Portobello Road Birmingham, AL 35242 Tel: (205) 908-6512

Email: mgurleyir@yahoo.com

Stephen M. Hansen – Class Certification

Committee

LAW OFFICE OF STEPHEN M. HANSEN

1821 Dock Street Tacoma, WA 98402 Tel: (253) 302-5955 Fax: (253) 301-1147

Email: steve@stephenmhansenlaw.com

Lynn W. Jinks, III – *Expert Committee* Christina D. Crow – *Discovery Committee* 

JINKS CROW, P.C. 219 North Prairie Street Union Springs, AL 36089 Tel: (334) 738-4225 Fax: (334) 738-4229

Email: ljinks@jinkslaw.com

ccrow@jinkslaw.com

Myron C. Penn – *Discovery Committee* 

Harley S. Tropin – *Damages Committee*Javier A. Lopez – *Discovery Committee*KOZYAK TROPIN &

THROCKMORTON, P.A.

2525 Ponce De Leon Boulevard, 9th Floor

Miami, FL 33134 Tel: (305) 372-1800 Fax: (305) 372-3508 Email: hst@kttlaw.com jal@kttlaw.com 53 Highway 110 Post Office Box 5335 Union Springs, AL 36089 Tel: (334) 738-4486 Fax: (334) 738-4432

PENN & SEABORN, LLC

Email: myronpenn28@hotmail.com

C. Wes Pittman – *Settlement Committee* THE PITTMAN FIRM, P.A.

432 McKenzie Avenue Panama City, FL 32401 Tel: (850) 784-9000 Fax: (850) 763-6787

Email: wes@pittmanfirm.com

Robert B. Roden – *Litigation Committee* 

SHELBY RODEN, LLC 2956 Rhodes Circle Birmingham, AL 35205 Tel: (205) 933-8383 Fax: (205) 933-8386

Email: rroden@shelbyroden.com

Gary E. Mason – *Class Certification Committee* 

WHITFIELD BRYSON & MASON, LLP 1625 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 605

Washington, DC 20036 Tel: (202) 429-2290 Fax: (202) 640-1160

Email: gmason@wbmllp.com

Michael L. Murphy – *Discovery Committee* 

BAILEY GLASSER LLP 910 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 800 Washington, DC 20006

Tel: (202) 463-2101 Fax: (202) 463-2103

Email: mmurphy@baileyglasser.com

J. Preston Strom, Jr. - Litigation Committee

STROM LAW FIRM, LLC

2110 N. Beltline Boulevard, Suite A

Columbia, SC 29204-3905

Tel: (803) 252-4800 Fax: (803) 252-4801

Email: petestrom@stromlaw.com

Thomas V. Bender – *Discovery Committee* 

Dirk L. Hubbard

HORN AYLWARD & BANDY, LLC

2600 Grand Blvd., Suite 1100 Kansas City, MO 64108 Tel: (816) 421-0700

Email: tbender@hab-law.com dhubbard@hab-law.com

Gregory S. Cusimano – *Litigation Committee* CUSIMANO, ROBERTS & MILLS, LLC

153 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street Gadsden, AL 35901 Phone: (256) 543-0400 Fax: (256) 543-0488

Email: greg@alalawyers.net

Brian E. Wojtalewicz

WOJTALEWICZ LAW FIRM, LTD.

139 N. Miles Street Appleton, MN 56208 Tel: (320) 289-2363 Fax: (320) 289-2369

Email: brian@wojtalewiczlawfirm.com

Lance Michael Sears SEARS & SWANSON, P.C.

First Bank Building

2 North Cascade Avenue, Suite 1250

Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Tel: (719) 471-1984 Fax: (719) 577-4356

Email: lance@searsassociates.com

Jessica Dillon Ray R. Brown Molly Brown

DILLON & FINDLEY, P.C. 1049 W. 5th Avenue, Suite 200

Anchorage, AK 99501 Tel: (907) 277-5400 Fax: (907) 277-9896

Email: Jessica@dillonfindley.com

Ray@dillonfindley.com Molly@dillonfindley.com

Allyson C. Dirksen HEIDMAN LAW FIRM, P.L.L.C.

1128 Historic 4th Street

P. O. Box 3086 Sioux City, IA 51101 Tel: (712) 255-8838 Fax (712) 258-6714

Email: allyson.dirksen@heidmanlaw.com

Archie C. Lamb, Jr.

ARCHIE LAMB & ASSOCIATES, LLC

301 19th Street North, Suite 585

The Kress Bldg.

Birmingham, AL 35203-3145

(205) 458-1210

Email: alamb@archielamb.com

Paul Lundberg

LUNDBERG LAW, PLC 600 4TH Street, Suite 906 Sioux City, IA 51101

Tel: (712) 234-3030 Fax: (712) 234-3034

Email: paul@lundberglawfirm.com

**Gwen Simons** 

Simons & Associates Law, P.A.

P.O. Box 1238

Scarborough, ME 04070-1238

Tel: (207) 205-2045 Fax: (207) 883-7225

Email: gwen@simonsassociateslaw.com

Counsel for Provider Plaintiffs